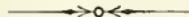


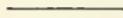
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
*DS* ASHBOURNE.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1909.



ASHBOURNE:

M. ROBINSON, PRINTER, UNION STREET.



To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District  
Council of Ashbourne.

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## Annual Report for the Year 1909.

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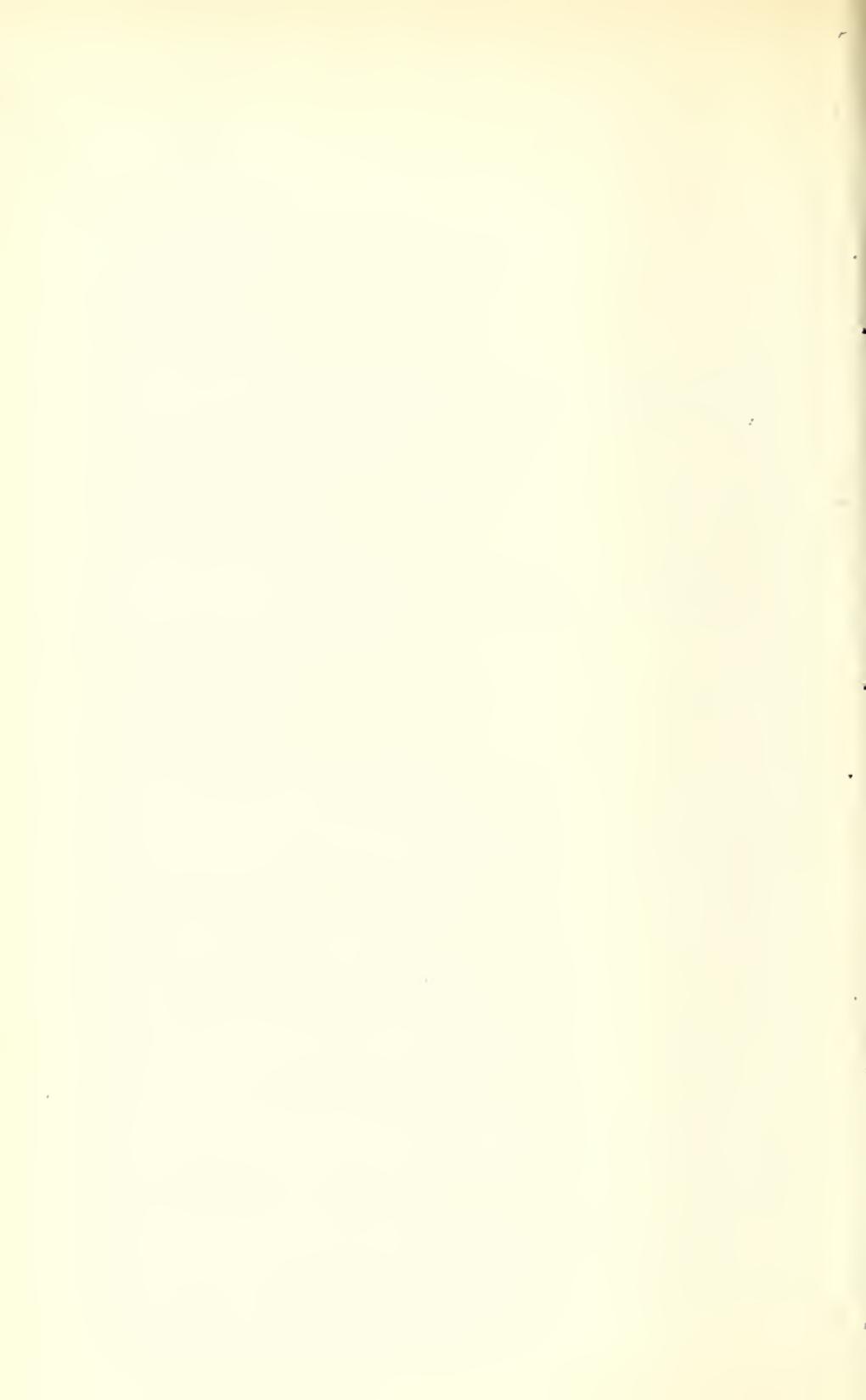
GENTLEMEN,

As Medical Officer for your District I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1909, on the Health and Sanitation of the District, together with a statement of the Vital Statistics for the year.

### Area, &c.

The area of the District is 69,674 acres, this being divided into 43 Parishes, and containing approximately 2,332 houses. The Northern portion of the District lies on the mountain limestone; the Middle portion on mill-stone, grit, and shale; the Southern portion on Bunster Sandstone, Keuper sandstone, and Keuper marl.

With the exception of stone-quarrying and brick-making in the Northern portion of the District, the



population is almost entirely engaged in farming, more especially dairy farming.

#### Meteorological conditions.

These were, by the exceptionally wet season, unfavourable to the health of the District causing an increase in the number of Respiratory Diseases, especially amongst the aged and infirm.

### Vital Statistics.

#### Estimated Population.

The population of the District at the Census 1901 was 10,440, or 192, below that of the preceding Census. It has been estimated that the population to the middle of the year 1909 is 10,788. The natural increase of the population (i.e. the excess of births over deaths registered in the District for the year ending June 30th, 1909) is 126. This number is 10 lower than the previous year, June 30th, 1908. Allowance has been made for the immigration to the large towns and abroad from the Rural District, according to the last Census.

#### Births.

There were 235 births registered during the year—111 males and 124 females, equal to an annual birth-rate of 21·7 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 257 for 1908 and equal to a birth-rate of 23·0.

The birth-rate is below the average for the past 10 years ending 1899–1908, which is 24·6.

No births have been registered from the Parishes of Hungry Bentley, Eaton and Alsop, Edlaston and Wyaston, Hulland Ward Intakes and Osmaston.



**Deaths.**

There were 132 Deaths registered during the year—68 males and 64 females. An increase from the preceding year 1908, of 9. The death-rate is 12·2 as compared with 11·2 for the year 1908, and 12·7 for the last 10 years 1899–1908. No deaths occurred at Callow, Eaton and Alsop, Hopton, Hulland Ward Intakes, Ible, Lea Hall, and Thorpe.

**Infantile Mortality.**

The number of deaths under one year of age was 14. This is equal to a death-rate of 59·5 per 1000 births registered, as compared with 15 deaths in 1908, and a death-rate of 58·3, and an average of 81·7 for the last 10 years ending 1899–1908. The causes of death were—Premature Birth, 2; Convulsions, 1; Pneumonia, 3; Gastro Enteritis, 1; Croup, 1; Diarrhoea, 1; other causes, 5. Two of the latter deaths were due to abnormal conditions at birth.

**Infectious Diseases.**

The mortality for 1909 was 4, and equal to a death-rate of ·38, as compared with 7 deaths for the year 1908, and a death-rate of ·63. 2 Deaths were from Diphtheria, 1 from Scarlet Fever, and 1 from Croup.

No deaths occurred in the District during the year from Erysipelas, Measels, Whooping Cough, Enteric, or Continued Fevers.

**Phtisis.**

The number of deaths were 7, equal to a death-rate of ·63 per 1000 of the population. This is the same number and death-rate as occurred during the years 1907–1908.

**Other Tubercular Diseases.**

There were 3 deaths—this number being 1 more than 1908, and it equals a death-rate of ·20.



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**Respiratory  
Diseases  
(excluding  
Phthisis).**

18 Deaths were registered, an increase of 6, as compared with the year 1908. The causes were Bronchitis, 7; Pneumonia, 11; and it equals a death-rate of 1·7, as compared with 1·1 for 1908.

**Heart  
Disease.**

During the year 1909, 21 cases were registered, this is 7 in excess of the year 1908, and it equals a death-rate of 2·0 as compared with 1·3 for 1908.

**Cancer and  
other  
Malignant  
Diseases.**

Five Deaths were registered, a decrease of 5 from the previous year 1908, and this equals a death-rate of .47.

Birth and death-rate of six largest parishes in the District (parishes with a population exceeding 500).

|                            | BIRTH-RATE.  |              | DEATH-RATE. |      |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------|
|                            | 1908         | 1909         | 1908        | 1909 |
| Middleton by Wirksworth    | 18·5         | 22·2         | 16·5        | 20·3 |
| Hartington (both quarters) | 26·5         | 24·0         | 4·6         | 12·5 |
| Brailsford                 | ...      ... | 18·2    20·8 | 5·6         | 13·9 |
| Brassington                | ...      ... | 24·4    22·6 | 18·7        | 15·6 |
| Clifton                    | ...      ... | 26·5    22·9 | 11·3        | 11·4 |
| Parwich                    | ...      ... | 20·4    18·3 | 11·1        | 14·7 |

Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1909. Of these 46 cases were notified, a decrease of 9 as compared with the year 1908.

**Scarlet  
Fever.**

17 cases of this disease were notified, of which one terminated fatally. This disease occurred in February, at Clifton, and 4 cases were notified. In September, October and November it was prevalent at Middleton by Wirksworth, and 10 cases were notified. Also cases occurred at Yeaveley,



Mappleton and Snelston. There has been a decrease of 4 cases from the previous year, 1908, and it equals a case-rate of 1.7, as compared with 2.0 for the year 1908.

**Diphtheria  
and  
Membranous  
Croup.**

There have been 3 fatal cases during the year 1909. 2 of these were at Middleton by Wirksworth, and 1 at Hulland. 23 cases were notified, a decrease of 3 cases from the year 1908, and equal to a case rate of 2.2 per 1000 of the population.

Diphtheria arose at Kirk Ireton in January, and at Clifton and Middleton in April; at Shirley and Brassington in July and August; at Osmaston in September, and at Middleton and Yeaveley in October and November.

Antitoxin was used in the above cases and swabs were taken during the convalescence of the cases for Bacteriological examination at the Birmingham University and the New Bacteriological department of the Derbyshire County Council at Derby.

Children affected were not allowed to return to school until they were pronounced free from the Diphtheritic Baccilli.

**Erysipelas.**

4 cases of this disease have been notified, an decrease of 3 from the year 1908. No fatal cases.

**Puerperal  
Fever.**

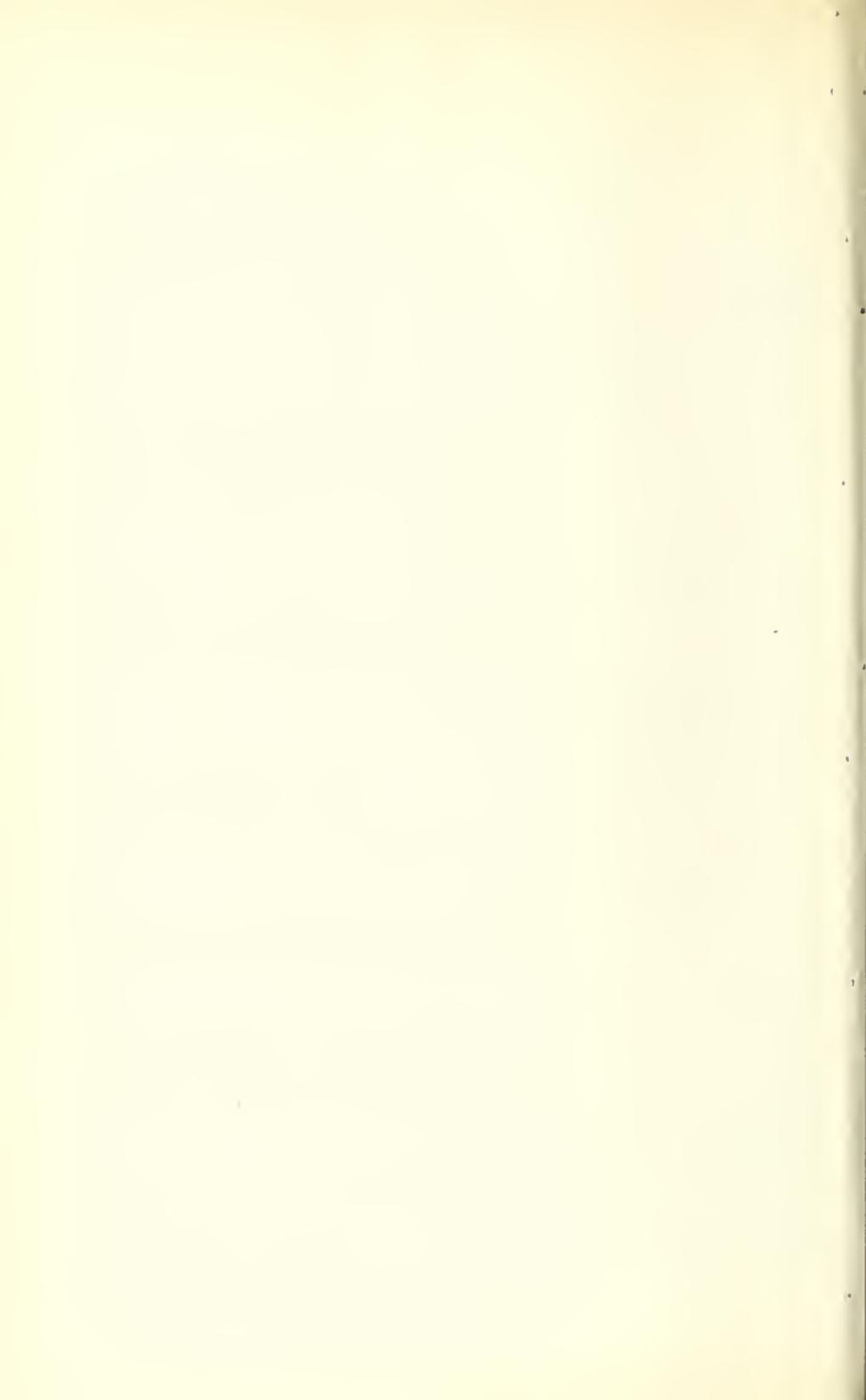
None.

**Diseases and  
Accidents of  
Parturition.**

There were 2 fatal cases at Middleton by Wirksworth and 1 at Hartington.

**Typhoid  
Fever.**

One case notified, no deaths.



## NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

**Whooping Cough.**

A few cases at Fenny Bentley in October.

**Measles.**

2 cases arose in May at Hartington in a refreshment house, from contact with a traveller, who was suffering from the disease. By prompt isolation and subsequent disinfection, the disease did not spread. A mild epidemic arose at Yeaveley, amongst the children attending school, in June.

**Chicken Pox.** Mild cases were prevalent at Longford and at Hartington.

### CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

At Clifton, in March, for Scarlet Fever. *10 weeks.*

At Longford, in May, for Chicken Pox—18 days.

At Yeaveley, in June, for Measles—5 days.

**Sanitary Work.**

The Sanitary Inspector and myself have made regular visits during the year throughout the District, and Dwelling Houses and Schools, in which infectious diseases have arisen, were disinfected, and, where practicable, also the bedding and furniture.

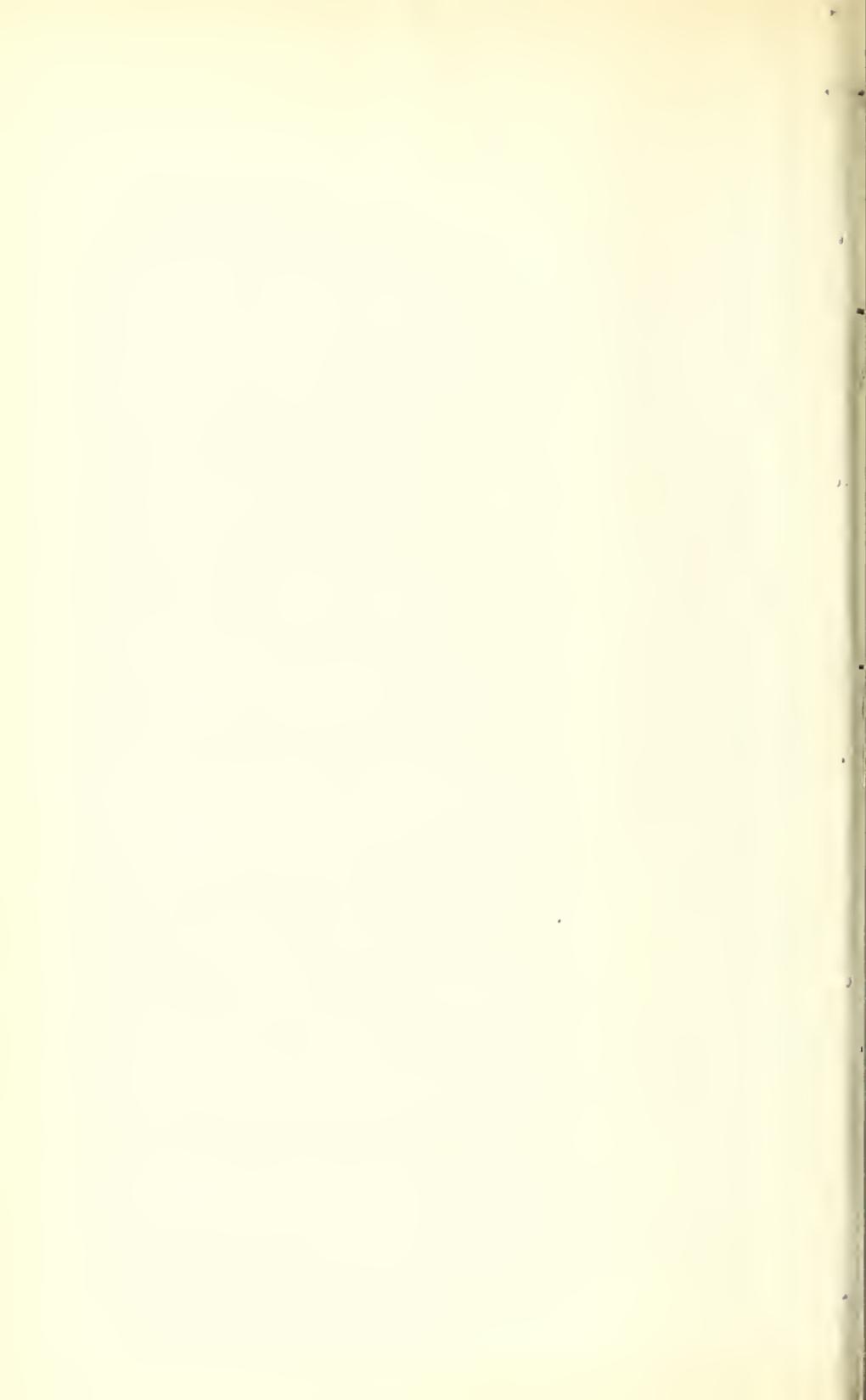
**Housing.**

Two Cottages have been closed during the year, as unfit for human habitation.

**Water Supply.**

The rams at Kirk Ireton continue to work well, and a plentiful supply of wholesome Water has been provided during the year.

At Middleton-by-Wirksworth, a branch Water Main has been laid to supply some houses which were not near enough to connect to the public main.



**Sewerage.**

The Sewage Disposal Works at Hartington have worked satisfactorily during the year. The filter was temporarily blocked with sewage at the top in August last, and it was given a week's rest and the top layer of small filtering medium removed ; after which it worked well again.

The Septic Tanks at Tissington are working satisfactorily, and the Cesspools in different villages have been attended to during the year.

A Tipping Place has been provided at Parwich, and endeavours are being made to provide one at Brassington.

A large Watering Place, at Parwich, has been cleaned out and repaired. Considerable improvement has been made at Parwich Leys in the sewage disposal.

**Dairies and Cowsheds.**

Considerable attention has been given to the Dairies and Cowsheds in the District, as the Council realise the necessity for having them kept in a satisfactory condition.

Proceedings were taken before the Justices in one case where the occupier permitted cows to be kept in a shed which was unfit for the purpose, and in another case, where a wooden cowshed had been erected, without plans. Convictions were obtained in both cases,

During the early part of the year Veterinary Inspectors, from the London County Council, inspected the cows at several farms supplying milk to London. In one case, one of such Inspectors, in February, certified a cow to be suffering from Tuberculosis of the Udder. The District Council instructed a firm of local Veterinary Surgeons to examine the cow, and, amongst other things, they used the test for Tuberculosis, with a negative result, and they accordingly certified the cow as being free from Tuberculo-



sis. The District Council had a lengthy correspondence with the London County Council on the above-mentioned subject, and that Authority sent down, on the 24th of March, two of their Inspectors to re-examine the cow. The re-examination took place in the presence of the District's Council Veterinary Surgeon and the Medical Officer of Health for the County. Samples of milk were taken by the London County Council Inspectors, and also on behalf of the District Council. The samples taken for the District Council were sent to the Birmingham University for Bacteriological Examination, and, on the 24th April, a report was received from the Analyst that neither samples submitted for examination, contained any tubercular bacilli. Further correspondence took place with the London County Council, but not until the 17th of June would that Authority admit that the Analyst's report of the samples of milk taken by them showed no evidence of Tuberculosis. The London County Council declined to pay the expenses which had been incurred by the Farmer in the above matter, and the facts of the case were laid before the Local Government Board.

**Notification  
of Births.**

The Council have not adopted the Notification of Births Act, 1907.

**Meat  
Inspection.**

The Council have not an Inspector with a Special Certificate in Meat Inspection. Visits are paid to the Slaughter Houses by the Medical Officer of Health and Inspector of Nuisances, and such action is taken in regard thereto as the Officers think necessary.

Home Work, Common Lodging House, and Canals, none in district.

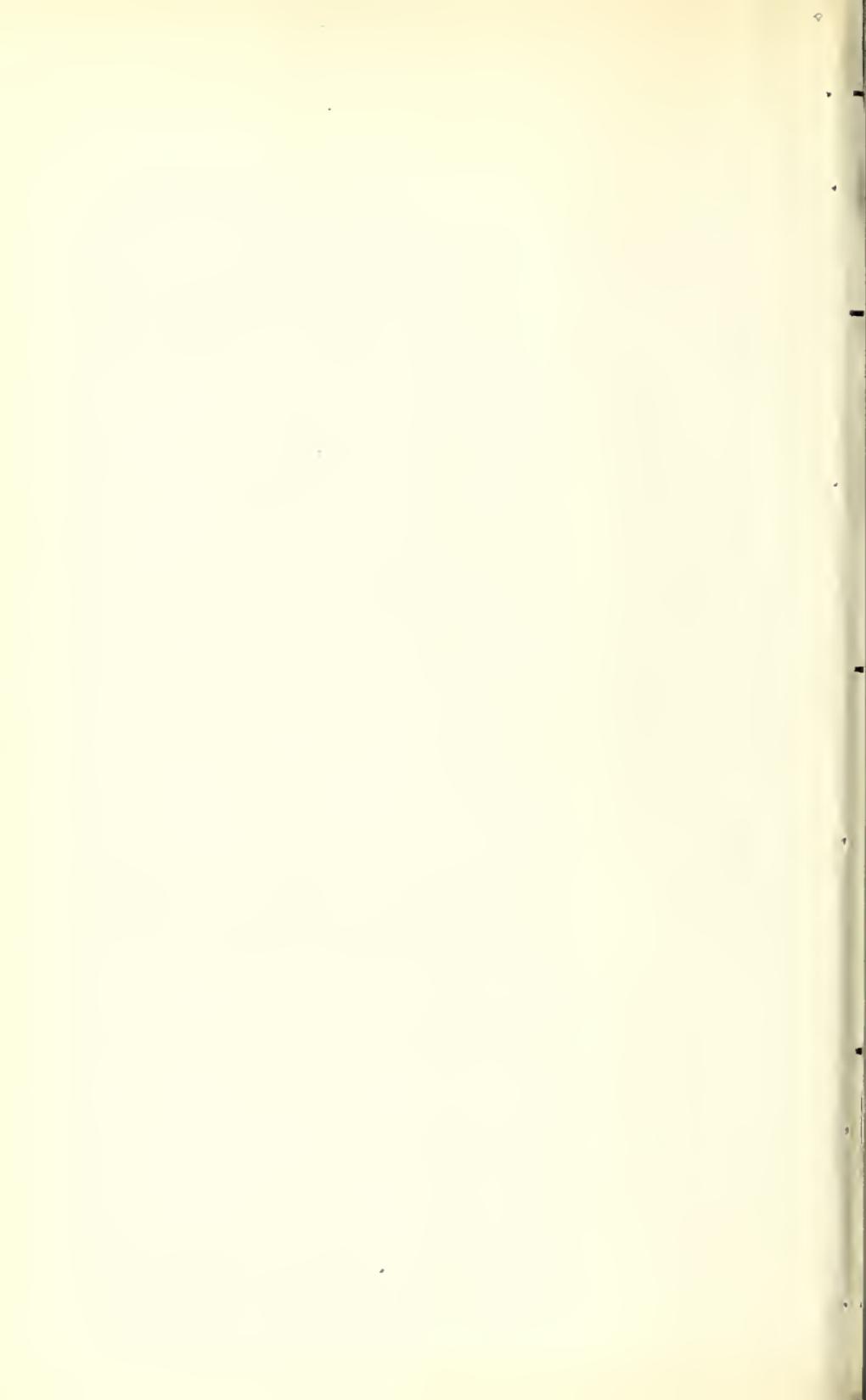


**Overcrowding** No case has come under notice during the year.

**Bake Houses.** These are inspected periodically, and have been found clean and in a satisfactory condition.

**Schools.** Every School in the District has been inspected during the year, and children altogether, to the number of 284, have been medically examined by me, under the new Act. There has been a marked improvement in the bodily cleanliness of the children examined, in comparison to those examined in 1908. They also were well nourished and sufficiently clothed, only one bad case of the latter condition came under my notice. Of the above number examined, 14 were slightly verminous, 7 had defective vision, and 43 were suffering from various other complaints, principally defective teeth. Tooth brushes have been provided to the schools by the Derbyshire Education Committee, at a trifling cost, and these have been extensively purchased and used. The care of the mouth and teeth are very important factors in the well-being and development of children, and great improvement is being made in this. No case of ringworm came under my observation.

I beg to repeat that provision should be found in the Schools for drying the wet garments and boots of the children, other than the ordinary heating apparatus. Also that water, soap, towels and utensils should be supplied for the children to wash, when necessary. I consider that the floors of the schools should be washed at the end of each week with a disinfecting and deodorising substance, as dirty and dusty floors are conducive to discomfort, and in some cases catarrhal disease amongst the children and



teachers. There has been marked improvement made in several schools, during the year, in better ventilation and lighting. Notices have been sent to the school managers of any bad defects, when I found it necessary.

#### SUGGESTIONS :—

An Isolation Hospital in the centre of the district for the reception of Infectious Diseases.

The notification of Anthrax, Hydrophobia, and Glanders.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours truly,



Medical Officer of Health.

February, 1910.

